

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02906 111719Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 ARAE-00
/100 W

-----111748Z 020669 /42

P R 111637Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5942
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2906

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BH, PN, GT
SUBJ: BELIZE: TORRIJOS TELLS PRESS OF HIS TALK WITH PRICE

1. TWO GUATEMALAN DAILIES HAVE PICKED UP WIRE SERVICES
STORIES OUT OF PANAMA THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS STOPPED OVER IN
BELIZE ON HIS WAY HOME FROM A MEETING WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO IN
CANCUN.

2. ACCORDING TO SPANISH WIRE SERVICE ACAN-EFE TORRIJOS TOLD
PRESS ON HIS RETURN THAT WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN A "TECHNICAL
STOPOVER" IN BELIZE BECAME A "WORK SESSION". TORRIJOS SAID
HE CONVINCED PRIME MINISTER PRICE THAT "A VISIT BY
PRICE AT THIS TIME TO CUBA IS INCONVENIENT". TORRIJOS
ADDED THAT HE MADE THIS RECOMMENDATION ALTHOUGH HE
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ADMITTED THAT "PRICE'S ARGUMENTS (THAT HE HAS THE RIGHT
TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE) ARE CONCEPTUALLY IR-
REFUTABLE. THE HEMISPHERE HAS BEEN INDIFFERENT AND IGNOR-
ANT OF THE SITUATION WHERE IN 25,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS
LIVE 200,000 BELIZEANS WHO WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THE UN DECLARATION THAT SAYS THAT ALL PEOPLES HAVE THE
RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FLAG, NATIONAL ANTHEM, POLITICAL

SYSTEM, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION".

3. STORY SAYS THAT PRICE ADMITTED TO TORRIJOS THAT IF AT THE NEXT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD IN GRENADA, BELIZE'S CAUSE RECEIVES SUPPORT, HIS CONTACT WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC "WILL BE UNNECESSARY". PRICE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, AND BOLIVIA WOULD TAKE A POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CARIBBEAN NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.

4. COMMENT: TORRIJOS'S STOPOVER IN BELIZE AND THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS SEEM TO INDICATE HE HAS NO INTENTION OF BACKTRACKING ON HIS SUPPORT OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PRESENTLY STRAINED PANAMANIAN-Guatemalan RELATIONS.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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